GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4703
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2016
Condition of Handloom and Handicraft Workers
Jadhav Shri Prataprao Ganpatrao;Joshi Shri Chandra Prakash;Karunakaran Shri P.;Raghavan Shri M. K.;Sanjar Shri Alok;Swami Maharaj Dr. Sakshi

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handloom weavers and handicraft artisans in the country are in a bad state and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Union Government for their welfare;

(b) the details of the financial assistance including loans provided to the weavers and artisans in the country including the backward areas during each of the last three years and the current year, state-wise including Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether the Government proposes to regulate the price of cotton thread and print the correct price on the packets of cotton thread;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for the implementation of the said scheme;

(e) the steps taken to upgrade the quality of healthcare systems, insurance and capital for weavers and workers in handloom and powerloom sectors and also the handicraft artisans; and

(f) whether the Government has any special proposal for development of handloom industry in Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a): Handloom and Handicraft sectors are unorganized sectors. For the welfare of handloom weavers and handicraft artisans and for sustainable development of handloom and handicraft sectors, the following schemes are under implementation during 12th Plan:

Schemes under implementation for handloom sector:

(i) National Handloom Development Programme
(ii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
(iii Yarn Supply Scheme
(iv) Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme

Schemes under implementation for handicraft sector:

(i) Baba Saheb Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (Cluster)
(ii) Design & Technical Upgradation Services
(iii) Marketing & Support Services
(iv) Human Resource Development
(v) Research & Development
(vi) Handicrafts Artisans comprehensive Welfare Scheme.
(vii) Infrastructure and Technology Development Scheme.

(b): The details of fund released for handloom clusters development and loans provided to the handloom weavers in the country including the backward areas during last three years and the current year, State-wise including the state of UP are at Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively. The state-wise details of financial assistance under indigent circumstances, loans, tool kits provided and credit guarantee scheme to handicraft artisans in the country including the state of UP, which also include the backward areas during the last 3 years and the current year are at Annexure-III to Annexure-VI.

(c) & (d): There is no such proposal.

(e): In order to enable handloom weavers to avail social security benefits, Government of India has been implementing Handloom Weavers comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS) with 2 components namely Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY). MGBBY is under convergence to Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY). Credit at concessional interest rate is being provided to handloom sector under Concessional Credit Component Scheme of National Handloom Development Programme. Under the scheme, the loans are provided at concessional interest rate of 6% for a period of three years. Margin money assistance to a maximum of Rs.10,000 per weaver and credit guarantee for a period of three years is also provided.

For the benefit of powerloom weavers/workers, Government of India is implementing Group Insurance Scheme (GIS) through Ministry of Textiles, as a Social Security/welfare measure as well as to upgrade the quality of healthcare systems, insurance and capital for weavers and workers in powerloom sectors. Details of the scheme are as under:-

To upgrade the quality of healthcare systems, insurance and capital for handicraft artisans the government is implementing the scheme of Direct Benefit to Artisans under one of the components of National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDCP). Under the scheme the following intervention are carried out:-

1. Rashtriya Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana.
2. Aam Admi Bima Yojana for Handicraft Artisans.
3. Support to artisans in indigent circumstances.
4. Financial assistance for supply of tools, safety equipments, looms etc.
5. Credit Guarantee Scheme.
6. Interest Subvention Scheme.

(f): A special project for skill up-gradation of 40 handloom weavers has been sanctioned to Weavers Service Centre, Nagpur at a total cost of Rs. 8.56 Lakh. Government of Maharashtra has also been advised to avail benefits under National Handloom Development Programme for handloom clusters.